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*REFLECTIONS ON THE AUXILIARY VERB SĂM ‘TO BE’
IN MODERN BULGARIAN*

This paper discusses the use of the auxiliary verb săm ‘to be’ in present-day Bulgarian and, in particular, forms of the verb in pluperfect. The grammars of the Bulgarian standard language assert that pluperfect forms of this verb are not used. Still, this paper analyzes a number of such forms attested by the author mostly but not only in translated literature. Further, the variation and competition between the two forms in past tense, be and beshe, of the auxiliary verb are focused on and statistical observations are made.

*Keywords: Bulgarian grammar, auxiliary verb, verbal system, past perfect tense, rivalry
be/beshe*
